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REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 18 and 20 are pending in the instant application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 18 and 20 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 18 and 20 under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states that each of the claims lack antecedent basis since they depend from a canceled independent claim.

Applicants have canceled claims 2, 9 and 18 and added new independent claims 24-26. New claim 24 is original claim 2, written in independent format, containing the limitations of previously canceled claim 1. Claims 3-6 have been amended to depend from new claim 24. New claim 25 is original claim 9, written in independent format, containing the limitations of previously canceled claim 8. Claims 10-11 have been amended to depend from new claim 25. New claim 26 is original claim 18, written in independent format, containing the limitations of previously canceled claim 17. Claim 20 has been amended to depend from new claim 26.

Applicants submit that all claims now contain proper antecedent basis and it is clear as to what invention Applicant is claiming.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for

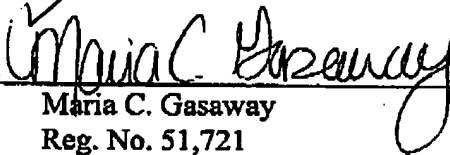
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allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicant authorizes any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Date: January 30, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 2, 9 and 18.

Please add new claims 24-26 as follows:

24. A coating composition for an article comprising a superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor in aqueous solution, wherein the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor is a polyacrylate.

25. A coating formed on the surfaces of a reinforcing article, comprising a superabsorbent water-soluble polymer, wherein the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer, after curing, absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment, and desorbs water when the coating is dried.

27. An aqueous coating composition comprising:
a superabsorbent polymer, wherein said superabsorbent polymer is selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a superabsorbent polymer;
a viscosity-modifying agent; and
a binder.

Please substitute claims 3, 5, 6, 10-11, and 20 for original claims 3, 5, 6, 10-11, and 20 as follows:

3. (Amended) The coating composition of claim [1] 24, further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

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5. (Amended) The coating composition of claim [1] 24, further comprising a lubricant.

6. (Amended) The coating composition of claim [1] 24, further comprising a binder.

10. (Amended) The coating composition of claim [8] 25, further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

11. (Amended) The coating of claim [8] 25, further comprising a lubricant.

20. (Amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim [17] 26, wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof.